THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Stocks of wheat are in excess of requirements of buffer stocking policy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As against the target of 153.6 million tonnes for foodgrains production during the crop year 1984-85 (July-June), the actual achievement was 146.2 million tonnes.

(e) The current level of wheat stocks continues to be in excess of buffer stocking policy requirements.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. However, quantity of foodgrains which got damaged during storage (in covered godowns and GAP together) and transport due to rains, floods and cyclones is given below for the last two years:

Period	Quantity transferred from sound to damaged grains. (Lakh tonnes)	% of damages to average stock holding
1983-84	1·01	0·85
1984-85	0·65	0·40

(h) During 1986-87, the Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and the 16 State Warehousing Corporations together are expected to construct a storage capacity of 16.75 lakh tonnes for foodgrains. The Food Corporation of India is also making efforts to hire additional storage capacity in addition to cover and plinth (CAP) storage arrangements.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

2278. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently signed any agreement with Japan for the expert of Kudremukh iron ore; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) A memorandum of Uunderstanding has been signed between the Japanese Steel Mills, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., and Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd., for export of 2.5 million tonnes of iron ore concentrates from Kudremukh during 1986-87. The shipments will take place from New Mangalore Port. The foreign exchange likely to be earned would be approximately Rs. 38 crores.

Legislation for safety in factories

2279. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive legislation regarding safety measures in factories and protection of environment from exposure of chemicals and toxic substances; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The amendments to the Factories Act, 1948 are yet to be finalised.

Bill on Child Labour

2280. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive Bill on child labour is being drawn up by his Ministry;

(b) whether the main feature of the Bill is to cover health, education and vocational training of the working children;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Labour is also working on a scheme under which establishments employing less than 50 workers may be required to ensure their liability with the Life Insurance Corporation; and

(d) if so, by when such a comprehensive Bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is a proposal to provide for compulsory insurance of employer's liability under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(d) The Comprehensive Child Labour Bill will be introduced in the Parliament as soon as the details are finalised.

Public Sector Banks

2281. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up goals at national level to be achieved by the public sector banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether performances of banks in West Bengal have kept pace with the national goal level set;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what corrective steps Government have taken or are contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (e) The banks have been advised to ensure that the share of priority sector advances to total advances is not less than 40 per cent and the share of advances to weaker sections in total advances is not less than 10 per cent. For lending to direct agriculture, the banks were given a target of 15 per cent which was to be achieved by the end of March 1985. The banks have now to ensure that the share of direct agricultural advances in total advances should reach the level of 16 per cent by the end of March 1987.

Targets have been assigned bank-wise for the country as a whole and not for States separately.

Disbursement of Bank Loans through 'Credit Melas'

2282. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken an extensive programme of disbursement of bank loans in the name of 'Credit-Mela' to people below a certain income level in all the States;

(b) if so, how many 'Credit-Melas' have so far been organised and amount disbursed during 1985-86, State-wise; and

(c) what are the modalities for identifying the loanees and other relevant details?